New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

**New Brunswick Human Rights Commission**

# Human rights commission to meet in Edmundston (08/08/12)

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EDMUNDSTON (CNB) - A series of meetings will be held Tuesday, Aug. 12, and Wednesday, Aug. 13, in Edmundston by the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission. Discussions will include the governance model it wishes to recommend to government and its communication strategy from September until the end of December 2008.

Discussions about the governance model will include the following topics:

- History of the commission;
- Legal framework of human rights commissions in Canada;
- Significant changes in the human rights process over the last four-to-five years and the results of those changes;
- Identification of major current issues needing to be addressed;
- Governance structure of commissions in Canada; and,
- Possible changes to the governance structure in New Brunswick

"This is a great opportunity for the commission to have visibility throughout the communities of New Brunswick," said Gordon Porter, commission chairman. "We are actively working on helping New Brunswick residents with their human rights issues. Our goal is to get in touch with community members and to let them know what our mandate is."

Even though the commission does not have an office in the Madawaska region, Porter said it remains a provincial agency with a mandate to serve all of New Brunswick. The commission has members in communities across the province.

"Our recommendations to government will include additional staff so that we can have two human right offices in the north of the province," he said.

In addition to the meetings, commission members, including Arthur Harquail, the greater-Edmundston area representative, will hold a lunch with community representatives on Wednesday.

The commission is an arm's-length government agency that protects the human rights of New Brunswickers. Some of the issues it has worked on lately include offensive graffiti in the Moncton area; training and publications related to the commission's guidelines on accommodating students with disabilities; and the exception in the *Human Rights Act* that allows mandatory retirement for employees who receive a bona fide pension plan through their employer.

For more information on the commission, visit its website.

08/08/12

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